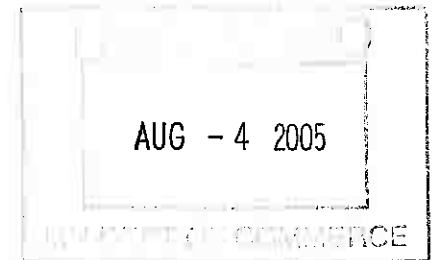


E002/me-05-1273



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

August 4, 2005



Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: MONTICELLO TO ST CLOUD 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE & SHERBURNE
COUNTY SUBSTATION
REQUEST FOR MINOR ALTERATION DETERMINATION

Dear Dr. Haar:

Enclosed are the original and 3 copies of our request for a Minor Alteration determination pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §116C.57 to 116C.69 and Minnesota Rule 4400.3820.

Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy ("Xcel Energy") proposes to extend the Monticello to St. Cloud 115 kV high voltage transmission line into Sherburne County Substation by constructing one mile of double circuit 115 kV line completely on Sherco Plant property. As part of the project, we will be expanding the Sherburne County Substation.

As part of the overall project we will also be increasing the capacity of the line by replacing the existing conductors with larger ones. That part of the project does not require Commission approval. We have provided notice of the reconductoring of the line by separate letter as required in Minnesota Rule 4400.0650, Subp. 3.

Copies of this filing have been served on the Department of Commerce and the City of Becker. Please call me at 715-839-4661 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pamela Jo Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "P" and "R".

PAMELA JO RASMUSSEN
TEAM LEAD, SITING & PERMITTING

Enclosure

c: Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Carole Wallace, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons by delivery by hand or by causing to be placed in the U.S. mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

DOCKET NO. E002/_____ MONTICELLO ST. CLOUD MINOR ALTERATION

Dated this 4th day of August 2005

Carole Wallace

Monticello St Cloud Minor Alteration

8-3-2005

Burl W. Haar (O+3)
Executive Secretary
MN Public Utilities Commission
121 East Seventh Place, Suite 350
St Paul, MN 55101-2147

Deborah Pile (3)
Facilities Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St Paul, MN 55101-2198

Pamela Rasmussen
Siting & Land Rights
Xcel Energy
PO Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702

SaGonna Thompson
Records Analyst
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall, Flr 5
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

Sharon Ferguson (1)
Docket Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St Paul, MN 55101-2198

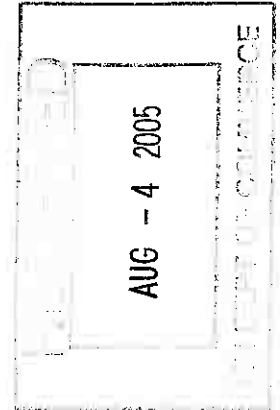
Kelli Neu
Community Development Director/City Planner
City of Becker
12060 Sherburne Avenue
PO Box 250
Becker, MN 55308

James Alders
Manager, Regulatory Projects
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall, Flr 5
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendraye
Marshall Johnson
Kenneth Nickolai
Thomas Pugh
Phyllis Reha

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner



IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
D/B/A XCEL ENERGY FOR MINOR
ALTERATION OF THE MONTICELLO TO
ST CLOUD 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
AND THE SHERBURNE COUNTY
SUBSTATION

DOCKET NO. E002/_____

PETITION FOR APPROVAL

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes §116C.57 to 116C.69) and Minnesota Rule 4400.3820, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy ("Xcel Energy" or "Company") hereby submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") a petition for approval of a minor alteration to the existing Monticello to St. Cloud 115 kV high voltage transmission line and the Sherburne County Substation. We propose to connect the Monticello to St. Cloud transmission line to Sherburne County Substation by constructing 1.2 miles of new line. The new part of the circuit will be entirely on the Sherco Plant site. The voltage of the line will remain the same. The Sherburne County Substation will be expanded to accommodate this connection. The expansion will occur on the Sherco Plant site.

As part of the overall project we will also be increasing the capacity of the Monticello to St. Cloud 115 kV line by replacing the existing conductors with larger ones. That part of the project does not require Commission approval. We have provided notice of the reconductoring of the line by letter as required in Minnesota Rule 4400.0650, Subp. 3.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project components subject to Commission minor alteration determination consist of the following:

Sherburne County Substation: The substation site will be expanded by 4.4 acres from 5.9 acres to 9.3 acres. The expansion area will be entirely on Xcel Energy property (Figure 2). A new 345 kV/115 kV transformer will be installed along with associated breakers bus work, and switches. Figures 3 and 4 show the existing and expanded substation areas. This portion of the project is estimated at \$7,800,000.

115 kV Line Extension: The existing Monticello to St. Cloud 115 kV transmission line will be tapped just northwest of Sherburne County Substation and extended into the substation by constructing a double circuit 115 kV line (Figure 5). The route of the 1.2-mile line will follow the existing Sherburne County to Benton County 345 kV transmission line. The entire transmission line expansion will be located on Xcel Energy property. The line will be constructed on double circuit steel poles with davit arms and concrete foundations. The estimate for this project is \$500,000.

Maps showing the Project area and the proposed improvements are enclosed.

The Sherburne County Substation work is scheduled to begin in October 2005 with site grading and to be completed in December 2006.

The new double circuit 115 kV connection of the Monticello to St. Cloud line to Sherburne County Substation is scheduled to be constructed from June 2006 through September 2006.

PROJECT NEED

The Project is needed to prevent damage to transmission circuits in the Monticello and St. Cloud area due to growing demand for electricity. For example, if the Benton County to Sherburne County 345 kV line were to fail during summer or winter peak demand periods, electricity flow through the existing 345/230 kV transformer at Monticello Substation would exceed its limits. The St. Cloud to Monticello 115 kV transmission line would also overload. Service to St. Cloud would have to be interrupted. By connecting the Monticello to St. Cloud line to the Sherburne County Substation and installing higher capacity conductors, the risks of equipment damage and service interruption are eliminated.

ANALYSIS

Minnesota Rule 4400.3820 Subpart 1 establishes the standard for determining whether a change in a high voltage transmission line is a minor alteration. The rule provides that, "A minor alteration is a change in ... a high voltage transmission line that does not result in significant changes in human or environmental impact of the facility."

The proposed expansion of the Sherburne County Substation and the extension of the 115 kV Monticello to St. Cloud transmission line will not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facilities and therefore qualify as a minor alteration.

- All work and the new facilities will be on existing Xcel Energy-owned property. Therefore, no landowners will be impacted.
- Aesthetic impacts will be minimal, since the transmission line extension will follow the existing Sherco to Benton County 345 kV transmission line to the Sherburne County Substation.
- The nearest residence is more than a mile away.
- There will be no agricultural impacts since this section of the plant property is not farmed.
- Structures will be placed parallel to the existing Sherco to Benton County 345 kV transmission line to the Sherburne County Substation. The location of the poles will be primarily along a road.
- There will be minimal tree clearing for this project. The tree cover is primarily cedar trees.
- The Department of Natural Resources has no record of endangered species in the immediate area.
- The State Historic Preservation Officer has no record of unique cultural resources nearby.
- No changes to the noise environment will occur since there are no receptors within a mile and noise from the Sherburne County plant operations is greater than the noise that will be caused by the expanded substation.

NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIREMENTS

Minnesota Rule 4400.3820, subpart 2, provides that notice of receipt of our minor alteration filing is to be mailed to those on the general service list previously administered by the Environmental Quality Board and to a project specific contact list

if it exists. The Rule as written requires the Chair of the EQB to provide that notice. With the transfer of the Power Plant Siting Program to the Commission we presume that notice is now the responsibility of the Commission. Subpart 2 goes on to provide at least 10 days from notice for comment on our application.

Utility Employee Responsible for Filing

Pamela Jo Rasmussen
Team Lead, Siting & Permitting
Xcel Energy
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008
715-839-4661

Miscellaneous Information

Pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7829.0700, Xcel Energy requests that the following persons be placed on the Commission's official service list for this matter:

Pamela Rasmussen
Team Lead, Siting & Permitting
Xcel Energy
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

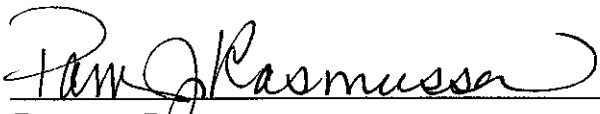
James Alders
Manager Regulatory Projects
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

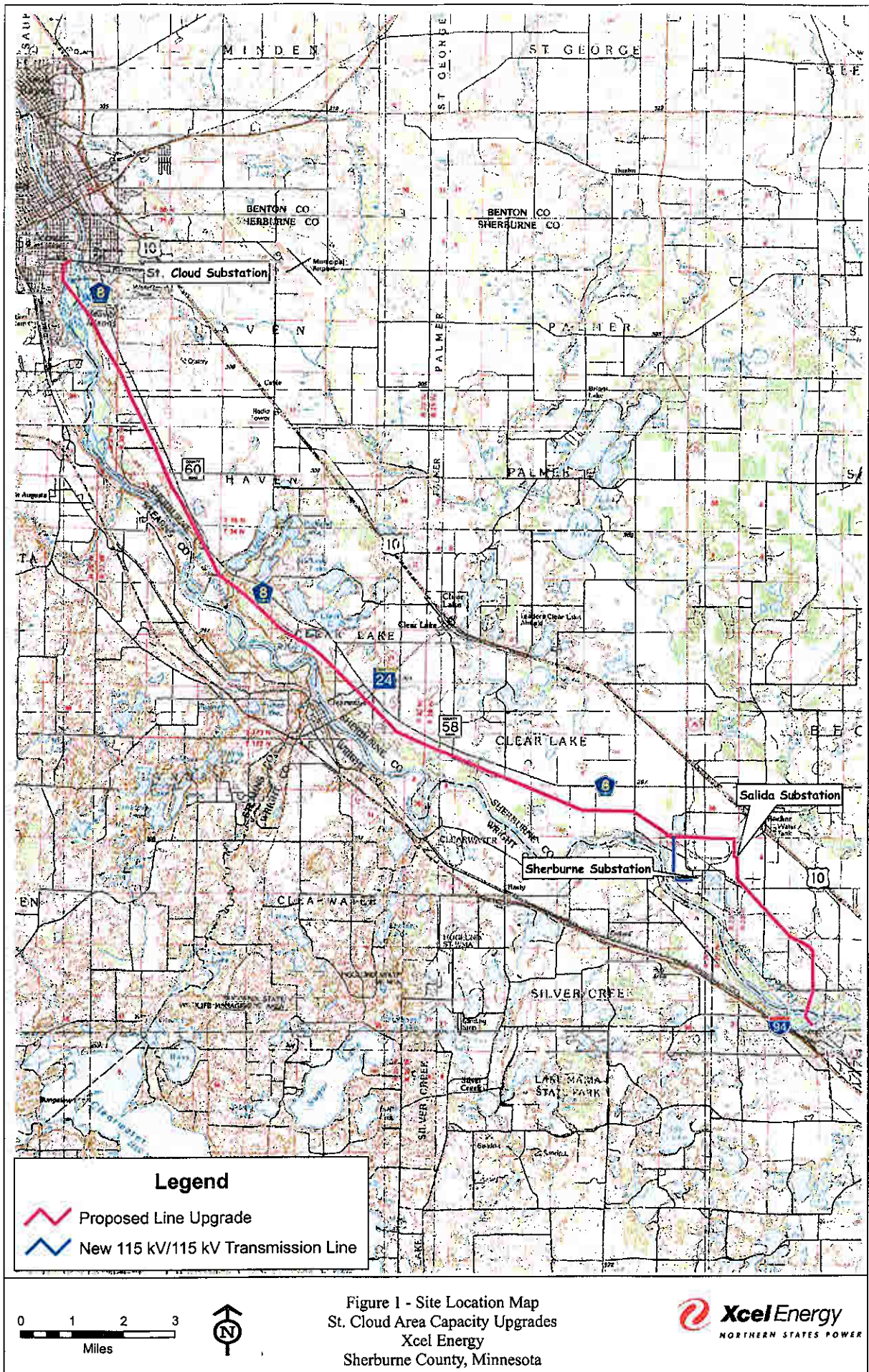
CONCLUSION

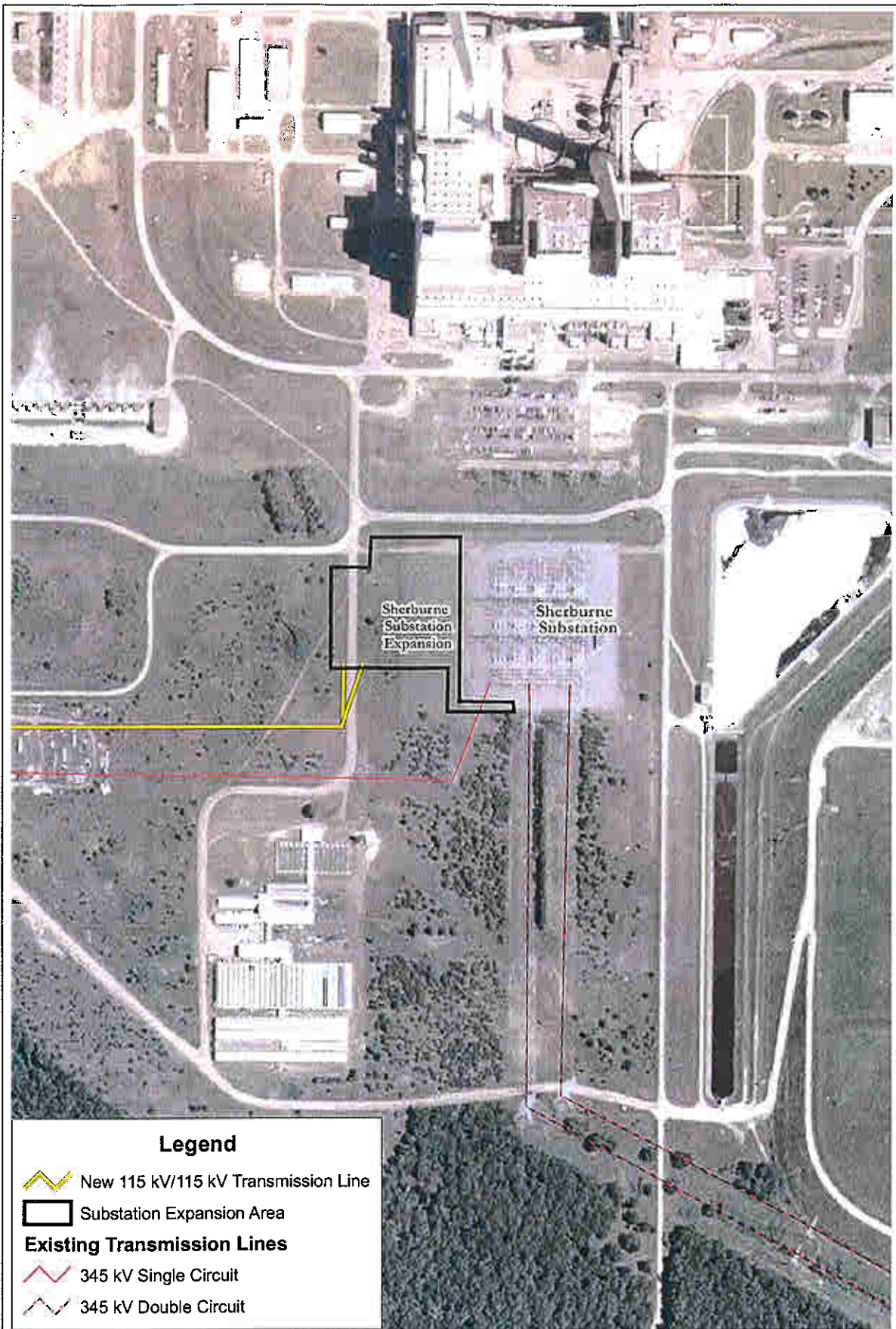
Xcel Energy respectfully requests the Commission determine that the connection of the existing Monticello to St. Cloud 115 kV transmission line to the Sherburne County Substation by constructing 1.2 miles of double circuit 115 kV line on plant property is a minor alteration as provided in Minnesota Rule 4400.3820.

Dated: August 4, 2005

Northern States Power Company
d/b/a Xcel Energy

By: 
PAMELA RASMUSSEN
Team Lead, Siting & Permitting



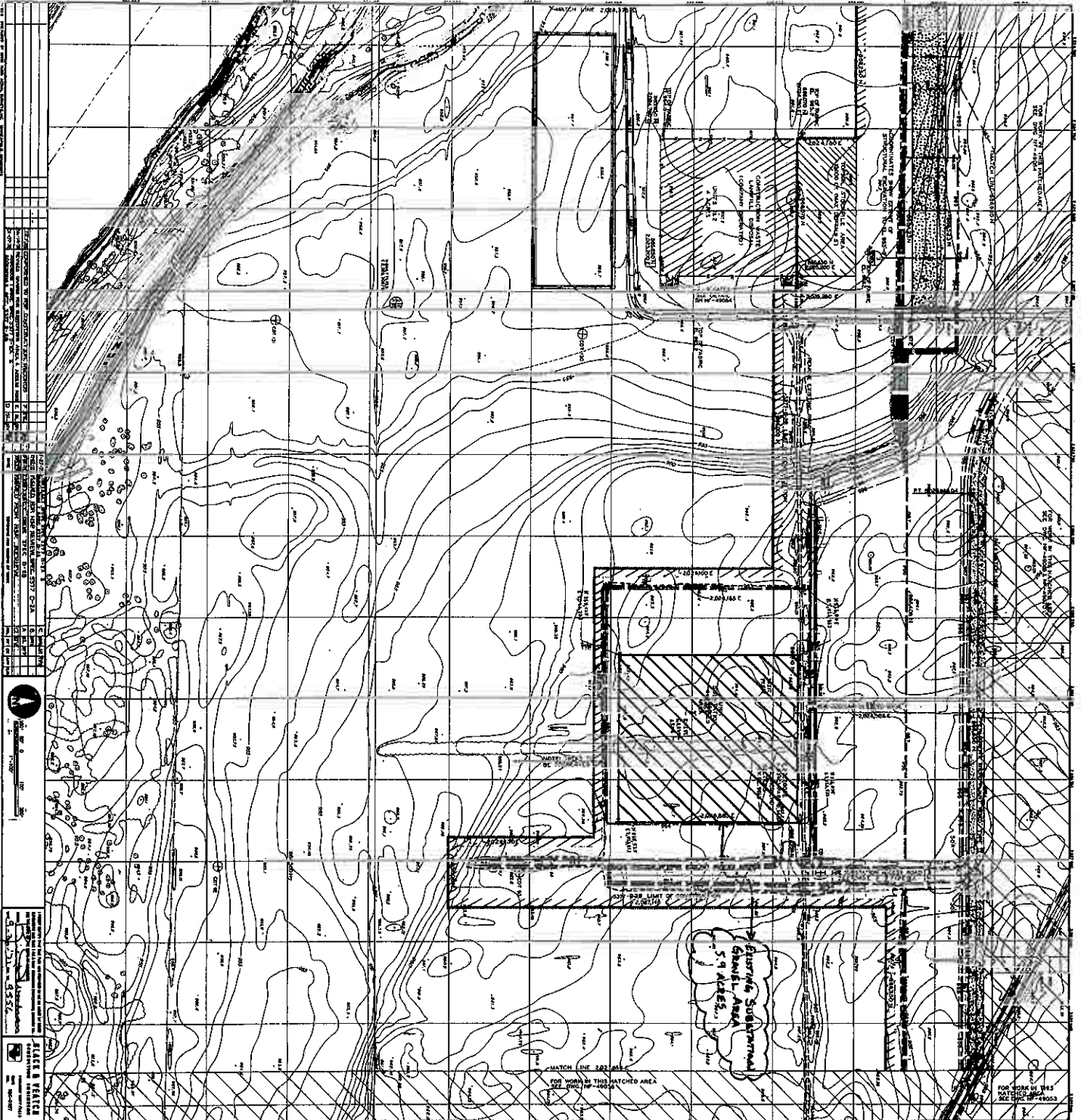


0 150 300 450
Feet



Figure 2 - Sherburne Sub Area
St. Cloud Area Capacity Upgrades
Xcel Energy
Sherburne County, Minnesota



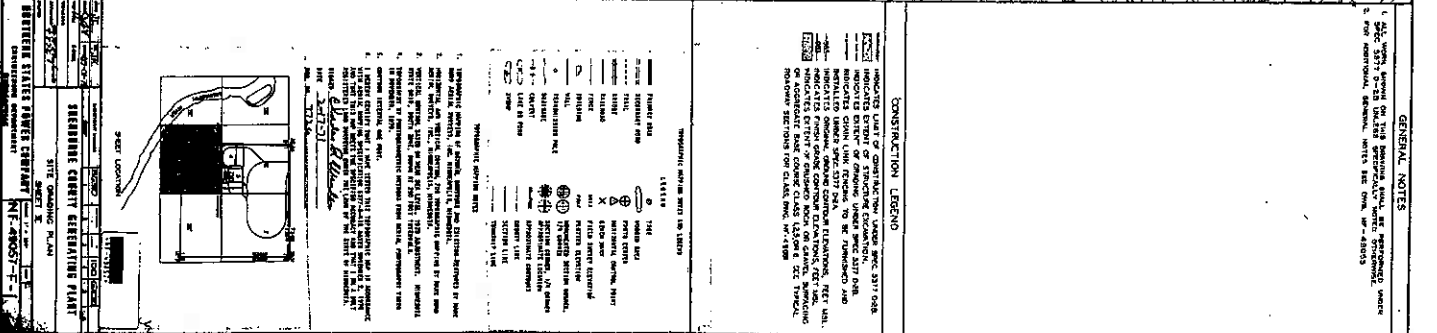


GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL WORK SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST EDITION OF THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, AS APPLICABLE.
2. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES.
3. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN ACCESS TO ALL ADJACENT PROPERTIES AND PUBLIC ROADS AT ALL TIMES.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL EXISTING UTILITIES AND STRUCTURES.
5. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN ADEQUATE DRAINAGE AND EROSION CONTROL MEASURES THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.
6. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMEDIATION OF ANY DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR ADJACENT PROPERTIES.
7. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN ADEQUATE RECORDS OF ALL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS USED.
8. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL ADJACENT PROPERTIES AND PUBLIC ROADS AT ALL TIMES.
9. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN ADEQUATE DRAINAGE AND EROSION CONTROL MEASURES THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.
10. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMEDIATION OF ANY DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR ADJACENT PROPERTIES.

CONSTRUCTION LEGEND

Symbol	Description
(Circle with cross)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with dot)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with X)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with +)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with *)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with #)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with %)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with ^)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with &)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with @)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with \$)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with %)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with ^)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with &)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with @)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT
(Circle with \$)	PROPOSED LOT OR CONSTRUCTION LOT



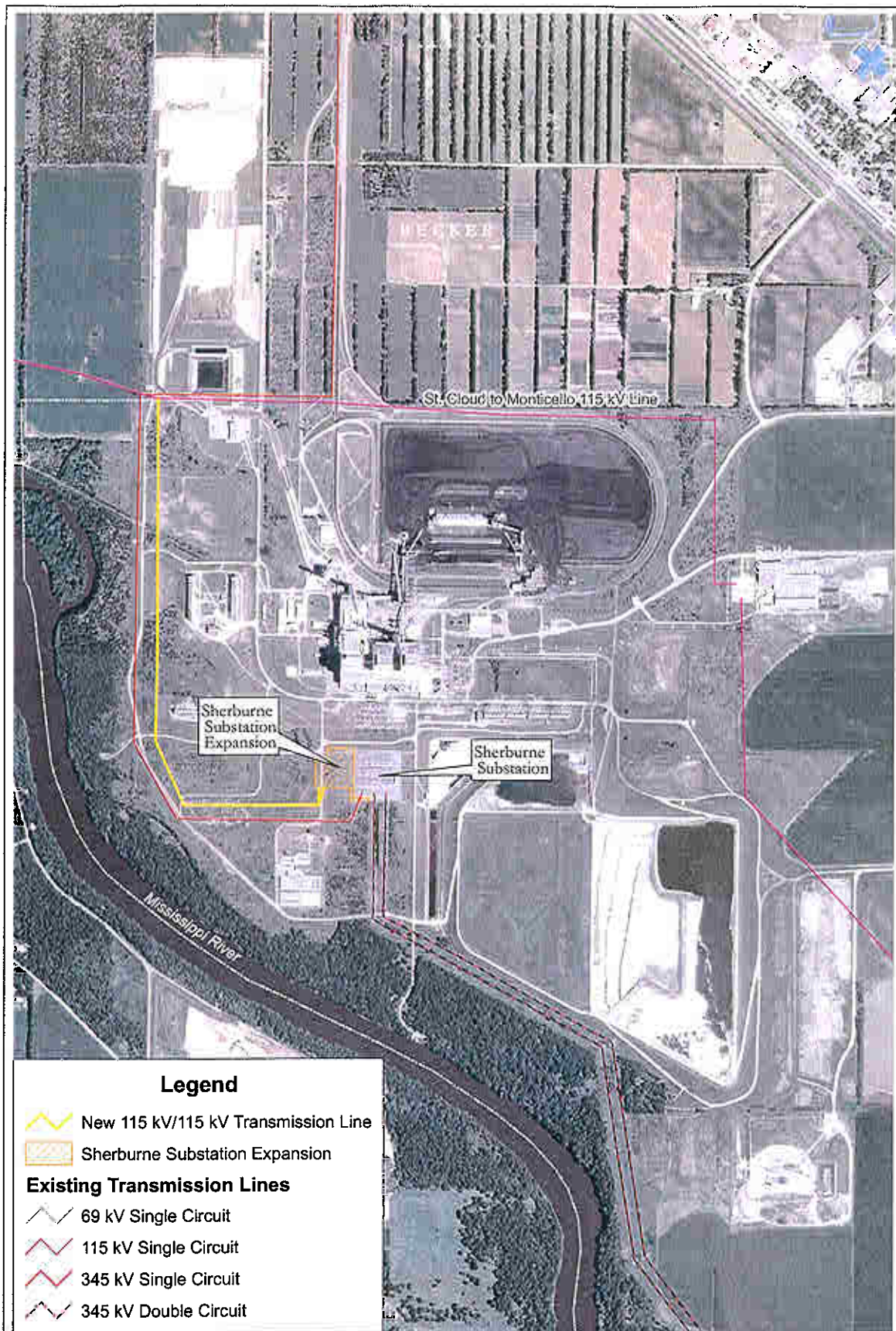


Figure 5 - New 115 kV/115kV Transmission Line
 St. Cloud Area Capacity Upgrades
 Xcel Energy
 Sherburne County, Minnesota